

# NEWS RELEASE



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## **OPELOUSAS MAN SENTENCED FOR DISTRIBUTION OF CRACK COCAINE**

*U.S. Department of Justice sends message that operating an  
illegal drug distribution business comes with serious consequences*

**Lake Charles, Louisiana . . .** CHARLES THIERRY, age 55, from Opelousas, Louisiana was sentenced yesterday in federal court by United States District Judge Richard T. Haik to 70 months federal imprisonment to be followed by 5 years supervised release for distribution of crack cocaine, announced United States Attorney Donald W. Washington.

THIERRY and co-conspirator Larry Lee Joubert were indicted in November 2002. THIERRY pleaded guilty to the federal charge in October 2004. Joubert was sentenced in June 2004 to 151 months (12 years & 7 months) imprisonment to be followed by 5 years supervised release.

This case was investigated as part of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) mobile enforcement team. The mobile enforcement team is typically requested by community leaders in order to

address significant drug trafficking activities in their communities. This case is one of 20 arising from the DEA operation conducted in Opelousas and surrounding areas in mid-2002.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission may only be used as guidelines by the judge. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

THIERRY and Joubert operated a drug distribution business in and around the Opelousas, Louisiana area in 2002. In April 2002, THIERRY and Joubert distributed approximately 51.9 grams of crack cocaine with a street value of \$2,100 in St. Landry Parish.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Todd Clemons.

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